



WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1965



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WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1965

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*Chairman of the Council*

Councillor R. Knowles, J. P.

*Chairman of Public Health Committee*

Councillor W. Morgan

*Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee*

Councillor Miss A. Birkenhead

*Members of the Council and Public Health Committee*

Councillor T. A. Bamford (retired May 1965)

Councillor T. T. Bayes

Councillor F. A. Cooper (elected Nov. 1965)

Councillor A. K. Greene (resigned Oct. 1965)

Councillor G. Gregson (elected May 1965)

Councillor J. Halpin (retired May 1965)

Councillor Mrs. E. E. Hewlett

Councillor R. Howard, Junr. (retired May 1965)

Councillor Mrs. E. Martin

Councillor K. W. Palmer (elected Nov. 1965)

Councillor Mrs. M. P. M. Parker, J.P.

Councillor A. Sharples

Councillor R. Smith (elected May 1965)

Councillor J. Spencer (died Sept. 1965)

Councillor J. W. Schultz

Councillor R. Welham (elected May, 1965)

Councillor Rev. A. Williams, B.A. (retired May 1965)

Councillor G. Woods (elected May 1965)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health:* J. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D.

*Other Appointments:* Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Lancs. C.C. No. 4 Division ; and Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Chorley, the Urban Districts of Adlington, Longridge, Withnell, Fulwood, and Leyland and the Rural Districts of Preston and Chorley.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Senior Assistant Divisional Medical Officer :*

N. T. W. Pover, L.R.F.P.S., L.R.C.S., L.M.S.S.A., D.P.H.

*Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :*

G. N. Corbishley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :* J. R. Williams, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., D.P.A.

*Meat Inspector:* F. Schofield.

*Warden Brindle Road Old People's Community Centre :*

Mrs. M. Gill, S.E.N. (to Nov. 1965)

*Clerk/Typist :* Miss N. Dawson.

Mrs. M. SALMON (from Nov. 1965)

*Student Public Health Inspector:* J. L. Rose.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
BAMBER BRIDGE

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1965

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### To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1965.

As in previous years, I should like in this introduction to refer to a few of the more important matters dealt with in the body of the Report.

According to the Registrar General's estimate the population of the district at Mid-June, 1965 was 22,480 which is 910 higher than that for the previous year.

The number of live births assigned to the district was 553 compared with 511 in 1964. The crude birth rate for the year was 24.6 (adjusted 20.7) per 1,000 population. This compares favourably with the birth rate for the Country as a whole — 18.10 — and that for the county of Lancaster — 18.20 (adjusted 18.56).

The number of deaths assigned to the district for the year 1965 was 207 which is one fewer than in the previous year. The crude death rate was therefore 9.20 (adjusted 13.20) per 1,000 population. Again this compares favourably with the death rates for England and Wales and Lancashire which were 11.50 and 12.27 (adjusted 13.01) respectively and is in fact the lowest rate recorded for the district since records commenced in 1894.

The Registrar General has again provided a table giving the causes of death in age groups and the table is reproduced in the Report. Comparing the causes of death with those of the previous year there were 45 deaths from malignant disease which is an increase of 9 and included in this are 15 deaths from cancer of the lungs which is an increase of 12. In spite of increasing skill in the treatment of cancer and more knowledge as to its causation the number of deaths from this disease shows no abatement. The relation between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung has been proved beyond dispute and every effort should be made to discourage young persons acquiring the habit. Education on the subject of cancer is a valuable means of encouraging the seeking of medical advice before the disease reaches an advanced stage. Deaths from heart diseases were 8 fewer and those from coronary heart disease showed a welcome decline of 14. Vascular lesions of the nervous system accounted for 7 more deaths.

It is again pleasing to note that there were no deaths attributable to tuberculosis as was the case in the previous year.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 10 which is 4 fewer than in 1964. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 18.10 per 1,000 live births. This figure compares favourably with the rates for England & Wales and Lancashire which were respectively 19.0 and 19.8 whilst in previous years the comparison has been unfavourable. In my last report I expressed hope of a downward trend and this has been realised. Unfortunately however, there was during the year a death attributable to child-birth which is the first death from this cause since 1958.

Regarding the incidence of infectious diseases during 1965 it is found that the total number of notifications was 187 compared with 710 in the previous year. Most of the decrease is accounted for by a reduction of 455 in the number of cases of measles notified. The number of cases of scarlet fever also decreased by exactly half to 29 and dysentery by 16 to 27. Whilst 17 cases of whooping cough were notified in 1964 there were none in the past year and in regard to tuberculosis 4 cases of the pulmonary and 1 of the non-pulmonary type were notified in 1964 as against 5 cases of



pulmonary tuberculosis in 1965. One case of poliomyelitis (paralytic) was notified during the year. This case occurred during the outbreak of poliomyelitis in nearby Blackburn and the patient was employed in that Borough. Fortunately the disease was of a mild type and a full recovery was made.

Turning now to other aspects, an important event was the official opening of the sewage treatment works by Councillor Joseph Spencer, Chairman of the Sewerage Committee, on the 3rd July, 1965. With much regret it is necessary to add that Councillor Spencer died in September.

As usual a considerable part of the Public Health Inspectors' time was spent in connection with food hygiene, including meat inspection and milk sampling. Meat inspection at the private slaughterhouse in the district kept the Meat Inspector more than fully occupied. Out of 343 samples of milk submitted to the Public Health Laboratory 40 involving 5 dairy herds were found to contain brucella abortus organisms. These organisms are responsible for contagious abortion in cattle involving farmers in serious losses and can give rise to disease in man known as Undulant Fever. Milk infected with these organisms can be rendered safe for consumption by pasteurisation. This procedure, however, fails to get at the root of the problem as no control can be exercised over the disposal of infected animals which can be sold at cattle markets and taken into other herds. The only sound solution would seem to be the compulsory pasteurisation of all milk and the implementation of a National Scheme to eradicate the disease in cattle as has been achieved in some other countries. The responsible Ministries are well aware of the problem and the views of interested bodies, but have failed to take adequate steps to deal with the issues involved.

In regard to housing, the general standard in the district is good. The majority of houses considered completely unfit have been cleared or closed, and many of the older type houses have been or are being improved. Housing development continues and during 1965 293 (including 9 flats) were erected by private enterprise and 20 flats by the District Council.

Other important developments during the year were the completion of three County Council premises in the district, namely, a hostel and training centre for mentally sub-normal adult persons and a home for the elderly. Alongside the latter the District Council are erecting four bungalows for elderly persons whose welfare will be under the supervision of the Warden of the home. These bungalows will prove a useful addition to the bungalow scheme which has been functioning very successfully for several years now. The large volume of voluntary work which goes on in the district, particularly in regard to the welfare of the elderly continues to be a very pleasing feature.

In concluding this introduction I would like again to record my sincere thanks to Mr. Corbishley and Mr. Williams for all the help they so willingly give me. I am also indebted to other officers of the Council for assistance and advice whenever required.

I am most grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Council and in particular to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee for their continued support and encouragement.

Your obedient servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

### **Physical Characteristics of the Area**

The shape of the district is roughly that of a quadrangle with the longer sides from East to West of  $4\frac{1}{4}$  miles and the shorter North to South of 3 miles. There is a pronounced slope in the area from South East to North West, falling from 300 feet above sea level to 20 feet above mean sea level.

Part of the northern boundary of the district is formed by the River Ribble for a distance of some two miles, and it is tidal in almost all that stretch. The River Darwen flows through a valley in the northern part of the area and joins the Ribble towards the north western boundary of the district.

Each of these rivers has given rise to extensive flooding in the lower lying parts of the district in times of heavy rains. The risk of flooding is accentuated by a West wind with a high tide level.



Geologically the area is based on Triassic Sandstone upon which are placed a layer of lower boulder clay, a layer of drift sand and finally a layer of upper boulder clay. The rock base forms an inclined plane which dips downwards from the East towards the sea. Outcrops of this rock are found in the beds of the rivers Ribble and Darwen. In the boulder clay layers stones of varying sizes are found. Most of these are of Lakeland origin brought down by the movement of ice or by its melting. In the Drift Sand layer there are deposits of gravel. Usually the layers of Glacial Drift fill the valleys, the hill tops being free of drift.

The thickness of the layers varies considerably in different parts of the district, and the three layers may reach 100 feet, but in most parts of the district the Upper Boulder layer approximates 10 feet, the Drift Sand 9 feet and the Lower Boulder layer from 2 feet upwards.

The two rivers form a flat tongue of land near their junction and the alluvial deposits provide a rich soil which is utilised for market gardening. This land has, unfortunately, been flooded on many occasions to the great detriment of the stock in the gardens.

### **Social Conditions and Amenities of the Area**

The main portions of the district are closely associated with industry, but part is entirely residential. The chief industries are cotton manufacture, especially weaving, engineering, corn milling, market gardening and dairy farming.

There are thirteen churches in the area, a number have attached Sunday Schools covering the various aspects of religion. Many church halls are associated with these churches where in the winter months, social functions are held.

The clubs in the district are political, religious and non-sectarian; some are connected with sport. Games such as billiards, snooker, darts, dominoes, etc., are played in the clubs. Additionally, a tennis club, a table tennis club, and a cricket club are sited in the district.

The district is fortunate in having a number of playing fields, some of which are owned and controlled by the Local Authority and others by the sports organisations from churches and clubs. Good use is made of these for the usual seasonal sports. Some of the playing fields are now equipped with a children's play section.

The local Archeological Society has made excavations, particularly in the area close to the junction of the Rivers Darwen and Ribble, where it is considered that there was, in the period of Roman occupation, a landing place for Roman shipping. The existence of a fort is suspected, its boundaries have not been fully traced. Many interesting relics, pottery, metals, portions of urns, etc., have been found there and are now displayed in the Council Offices.

A report on the first 10 years' "dig" has been published; it indicates that one of the gate houses to the original fort has been discovered. Further work has been done in excavating this gateway during the past year.

### **Statistics of the Area**

Area in Acres (census 1961) ... ..	4,733
Population (census 1961) (as published by Registrar General) ... ..	19,061
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1965) ... ..	22,480
Number of houses (census 1961) ... ..	6,265
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1965) ... ..	7,341
Rateable Value (31st March, 1965) ... ..	£684,000
Sum represented by a penny rate (31st March, 1965) ... ..	£2,640



## Births

Live Births—						M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	294	244	538
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	9	6	15
						303	250	553
Birth rate per 1,000 population—Crude	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24.6
					Adjusted	...	...	20.7
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.1
Still Births—						M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
						3	7	10
Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.8
Comparability factor—For births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.84
						M.	F.	Total
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	306	257	563
						M.	F.	Total
						115	92	207
Death rates per 1,000 estimated population—Crude	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.2
Comparability factor—For deaths	...	...	...	...	Adjusted	...	...	13.2
Infant Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.43
Death of Infants under one year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Infant Mortality Rate								
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.1
Legitimate deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.1
Illegitimate deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate								
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.8
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate								
Deaths of infants under 1 week	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate								
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28.4
Maternal Mortality (Including Abortion)								
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.78
Malignant Neoplasms								
Number of deaths (groups 10-15 of Analysis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.00
Pulmonary Tuberculosis								
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil



**CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1965 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF  
WALTON-LE-DALE**

General Register Office, Somerset House, Strand, W.C.2

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS									75 and over
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-		
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	4	—	
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .. ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .. ..	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neo- plasms.. .. .	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	2	
	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	1	
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .. ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
16. Diabetes .. .. .	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System..	M	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	8	
	F	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	9	
18. Coronary Disease, Angina .. ..	M	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	9	4	7	
	F	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	4	
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
20. Other Heart Disease .. .. .	M	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	8	
	F	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	10	
21. Other Circulatory Disease .. ..	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
23. Pneumonia .. .. .	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
24. Bronchitis .. .. .	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	2	
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
31. Congenital Malformations .. ..	M	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
	F	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	7	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
	F	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	2	
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	M	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	
34. All other Accidents .. .. .	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
35. Suicide .. .. .	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES .. ..	M	115	6	1	1	1	1	—	4	11	27	29	34	
	F	92	—	3	1	—	—	1	6	4	12	28	37	



TABLE OF COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	PER 1,000 ESTIMATED POPULATION						Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 Total births	Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 Live births
	BIRTH RATE		DEATH RATE		Pul. T.B. Death rate	Cancer Death rate		
	Crude	Adjusted	Crude	Adjusted				
Walton-le-Dale Mean of 5 years 1960-1964	23·88	22·22	10·32	13·40	0·02	1·83	nil	24·14
1964	23·70	21·10	9·60	12·60	nil	1·67	nil	27·40
1965	24·60	20·70	9·20	13·20	nil	2·00	1·78	18·10
Increase or decrease in 1965 compared to: 5 year mean	+0·72	-1·52	-1·12	-0·20	-0·02	+0·17	+1·78	-6·04
previous year	+0·90	-0·40	-0·40	-0·60	nil	+0·33	+1·78	-9·30
County of Lancaster 1965	18·20	18·56	12·27	13·01	0·04	2·15	0·32	19·8
England and Wales 1965	18·10	—	11·50	—	0·042	2·23	0·25	19·0

Table of Decades

Period	Per 1,000 Population				Enteric Fever		Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Deaths from Diarrhoea
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Pul. T.B. Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
Ten Years											
1891-1900 ..	30.8	18.9	1.25	188	133	27	46	16	211	15	122
1901-1910 ..	26.3	14.7	0.95	128	116	21	98	15	291	16	58
1911-1920 ..	18.7	13.7	0.91	107	54	5	166	16	565	11	46
1921-1930 ..	16.0	12.0	0.72	64	7	0	66	5	310	0	11
1931-1940 ..	14.0	12.7	0.44	56	5	2	47	3	414	0	5
1941-1950 ..	16.5	12.3	0.33	42	0	0	27	1	280	0	6
1951-1960 ..	16.4	11.7	0.09	23	0	0	0	0	514	0	0

**Death and Death Rates**

The total number of deaths recorded during the year was 207 (115 males, 92 females) which is one less than in 1964. The Crude Death rate was 9.20 per 1,000 population and the lowest recorded for the District since records commenced in 1894.

**Infantile Mortality**

There were 10 deaths of infants under 1 year compared with 14 in 1964. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 18.10 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 27.40 in the previous year. The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales is 19.0.

The cause of death of the 10 infants is given below.

Age					Sex	Cause of Death
1 hour	...	...	...	...	M.	Atelectasis/Prematurity
1 hour	...	...	...	...	M.	Atelectasis/Prematurity
12 hours	...	...	...	...	M.	Atelectasis/Prematurity
14 hours	...	...	...	...	M.	Atelectasis/Prematurity
2 days	...	...	...	...	M.	Atelectasis/Prematurity
2 days	...	...	...	...	M.	Hydrops Foetalis
1 month	...	...	...	...	F.	Hydroencephalitis
2 months	...	...	...	...	M.	Congenital Heart Disease
2 months	...	...	...	...	F.	Broncho Pneumonia
4 months	...	...	...	...	F.	Hepatic Failure



### Neo-Natal, Early Neo-Natal and Perinatal Mortality

In order to show further detailed information of deaths in early infancy, separate mortality figures are given for the Neo-Natal period covering the deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age, the Early Neo-natal period covering the deaths of infants under 1 week of age and for the Perinatal mortality which in addition to Early Neo-natal deaths include the figures for still-births.

The rates for Neo-natal and Early Neo-natal deaths were 10.8 and 10.8 per 1,000 live births respectively and that for Perinatal Mortality was 28.4 per 1,000 total births.

## Maternal Mortality

During the year one death occurred associated with childbirth. This is the first such death since 1958 and has resulted in a Maternal Mortality rate of 1.78, this result is due to the method of annual calculation. Since the last maternal death 3,227 live births have occurred in the district spread over 7 years.

# The Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The hospital to which patients were admitted was:—

Deepdale Infectious Diseases Hospital, Preston.

The table below gives details of notifications for the year under review.

## Notifiable Diseases

[illegible]

Notifiable Diseases									Total	0 years	5 years	15 years	45 years	65 and over
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)									1	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas									—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory									5	—	1	2	2	—
Tuberculosis Other									—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis									—	—	—	—	—	—

## Tuberculosis

During the year 6 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified to the Department. These consisted of 5 new cases and 1 "Transfer In".

**Pulmonary:—**

New cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Transfers In	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

### Non-Pulmonary:—

New cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Transfers In	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Removed from the Register during the year were:—

**Pulmonary:—**

Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diagnosis not confirmed			...	...	...	...	...	—
Removed from District			...	...	...	...	...	1
Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

### Non-Pulmonary:—

Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	---
Diagnosis not confirmed			...	...	...	...	...	---
Removed from District			...	...	...	...	...	---
Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	---



On the Register at 31st December, 1965, were 48 Pulmonary, 12 Non-Pulmonary and 1 Combined case.

The Tuberculosis Register is periodically checked with the County Medical Officer of Health in order that the records of these cases are correctly recorded.

### **Dysentery and Food Poisoning**

For the third successive year there have been no cases of food poisoning notified within the district. In view of the prevalence of the Salmonella organism, which is one of the primary organisms associated with food poisoning, we are fortunate in having no cases reported.

Dysentery on the other hand, which is also a bowel infection, has, as in the past, caused us a considerable amount of concern, particularly in children. 27 cases were notified in the latter part of the year, but this proved to be the "tip of the iceberg" which developed during 1966. All the cases were mild and responded to treatment. A small number of cases refused to co-operate by providing faeces specimens. None of these cases were associated with the preparation of food, or considered to be a health hazard to others at that time, but a considerable amount of valuable time was consumed in futile attempts to encourage these defaulters to provide specimens and to remind them of their social responsibilities.

### **Poliomyelitis**

The outbreak of Poliomyelitis in an adjacent County Borough caused concern during August. One case occurred in this District. The patient, a young lady employed in the County Borough, had a mild attack and has recovered satisfactorily.

### **Measles**

There was a marked and welcome reduction in the incidence of measles. As compared with 579 cases notified in 1964 only 124 notifications were received in the past year. A vaccine to provide protection against this disease is about to become available but the extent to which it will be used has yet to be determined.

### **Whooping Cough**

No cases of this disease were notified. In the previous year there were 17 cases notified.

### **Scarlet Fever**

There was also a reduced incidence of Scarlet Fever — 29 notifications as compared with exactly twice that number in 1964.

### **Infective Hepatitis (Infective Jaundice)**

Although this disease is not notifiable in the district, cases are reported from time to time particularly through Education Welfare Officers and investigations are carried out.

No case was reported during the year under review. One suspect case was investigated in a school-child, the child was resident in an adjacent area and was referred to the Medical Officer of Health of the area concerned.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA**

### **County Council Services in the Area**

#### **Ambulance Service**

The ambulance service covering the area of the Urban District is radio-controlled from the Ambulance Headquarters at Broughton, where requests for ambulance transport are directed.

#### **Child Welfare Centres**

There are three in the district, one at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, one at the Methodist Sunday School at Lostock Hall, and one at Gregson Lane. The Brindle Road Child Welfare Centre met weekly on Thursday afternoons with a Health Visitor session each Thursday morning, the Lostock Hall Child Welfare Centre weekly on Monday afternoons, and the Gregson Lane Child Welfare Centre on alternate Wednesdays during the afternoon.



### **Home Help Service**

Home Helps are employed in Walton-le-Dale and district, and help a variety of cases including confinements, sickness, old age and infirmity, and Tuberculosis cases. Night helps are also employed where needed.

### **School Medical Service**

Medical and hygiene inspections are carried out at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge. Clinic sessions are held for a variety of treatments including minor ailments, dental care and ophthalmic conditions. The County Council make special provisions for residential schooling for various categories of handicapped children such as the blind, partially sighted, deaf and dumb, epileptics, delicate and backward.

### **Convalescent Care**

In suitable cases arrangements are made for the admission of patients to convalescent homes.

### **Chiropody Service**

A free chiropody service for elderly people, expectant mothers and registered handicapped persons is available at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, on the second Wednesday afternoon each month.

In addition a free chiropody service for elderly people is available through the Walton-le-Dale Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee at two local chiropodist's surgeries.

Where persons are unable to attend the Clinic or surgeries a domiciliary service is available.

### **Domiciliary Midwifery Service**

Three domiciliary midwives were employed in the Urban District during the year. The midwives in the area are:—

Miss H. W. Bamber, 140 Browndge Road, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35789.

Miss M. Gould, 8 Cedar Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35518.

Miss M. A. Wittner, 187 Chorley Road, Bamber Bridge. Tel. 35280.

### **Domiciliary Nursing Service**

The Domiciliary Nursing Service is provided in the area by four district nurses and one assistant nurse.

The nurses in the area during 1965 were as follows:—

Mrs. M. A. Arnold, 4 Lyndale Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35929.

Mrs. E. Oak, 6 Cromwell Road, Ribbleson, Preston. Tel. 51494.

Mrs. A. Smith, 82 Laburnum Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35812.

Mrs. I. Smith, 12 Bannister Close, Higher Walton. Tel. 36435. (Resigned 30-9-65).

Mrs. K. M. Peet, 2 Houghton Road, Penwortham. Tel. 44676. (Appointed 1-11-65).

Mrs. J. M. Garnett, "Lever Edge", Chain House Lane, Whitestake. Tel. 35448 (Appointed 1-4-65).

### **Ante-Natal Clinic**

Sessions were held monthly at the School Clinic, Brindle Road. A specialist (Mr. Robson) from Preston Royal Infirmary attended at each meeting in addition to the County Health Visitors and Midwives.

Routine inspections and examinations were made and patients were advised or given minor treatment where necessary. Any further treatment necessitated transference to Preston Royal Infirmary or Sharoe Green Maternity Hospital. The majority of the babies were born in hospital.

Post-natally, mothers also attended for advice or treatment.



## Welfare Services

Residential homes are provided to accommodate elderly and infirm persons who no longer have anyone to adequately care for them or who are unable to care for themselves. Arrangements can also be made for elderly persons to be admitted to a home for a short period (usually two weeks) to enable relatives to have a respite or take a holiday.

Handicapped persons can be helped in many ways by minor adaptations in their homes, or by instruction in handicrafts etc., by an Occupational Therapist. A Social and Handicraft Centre is held each Monday evening in Leyland, and Out-Work Centre is held during the week in Leyland, and woodwork and sewing classes are held in Bamber Bridge on Tuesday evenings. Transport to these centres is provided for those who are unable to travel themselves.

Holidays are also arranged for handicapped persons.

## Hospitals

The hospitals administered by the Preston and Chorley Hospitals Management Committee were available for patients from this district. They were :—

- (1) Preston Royal Infirmary.
- (2) Sharoe Green Hospital.
- (3) Chorley and District Hospital.
- (4) Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

There were annexes, belonging to this group of hospitals for Continuation, Convalescent, or Specialised treatment. One of these, Lostock Hall Continuation Hospital, is situated in this district.

All the hospitals were extensively used, for out-patient as well as in-patient treatment, by persons from this area, though the extent of this use was not known, as figures of attendances or lists of diseases were not available nor supplied by the hospitals. It would, therefore, be impossible to give even an approximate estimate of the amount of illness or disability for which these hospitals cater.

Sufferers from Malignant Diseases received specialised treatment at the special unit at Preston Royal Infirmary staffed by personnel from the Christie Hospital, Manchester.

Venereal Diseases were treated at a specialised clinic at Preston Royal Infirmary.

## Immunisations

PRIMARY				RE-VACCINATIONS			
<i>Immunised against Diphtheria</i>	<i>Immunised against Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Immunised against Tetanus</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Immunised against Diphtheria</i>	<i>Immunised against Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Immunised against Tetanus</i>	<i>Totals</i>
<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>		<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	
445	431	445	1321	458	57	385	900



### Smallpox Vaccination

Primary Vaccinations performed Age in years					Re-vaccinations
Under 2	2—	5—	15—	Total	Total
169	22	3	4	198	37

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	Primary Vaccinations	Reinforcements
1965 .. ..	51	5
1964 .. ..	303	17
1963 .. ..	48	28
1962 .. ..	32	60
1958-1961 .. ..	43	340
Others under 16 years ..	37	280
TOTAL .. ..	514	730

### Tuberculosis

The County Council supply the Health Visitor Staff, whilst the Regional Hospital Board supply the Medical Staff. The Chest Clinic for this area is at Sharoe Green Hospital, Fulwood.

Inspections, examinations, X-ray, light treatment, and general medical treatment were given at the Clinic.

### Mass Radiography

In July the No. 5 Mass Radiography Unit held a survey in the Walton-le-Dale Urban District. During the survey 3,231 examinees were x-rayed, as against 2,304 in 1962, a very encouraging increase of 927.

### Findings:

Three cases of active tuberculosis requiring treatment were found and one case of tuberculosis requiring occasional supervision was discovered.

### Type of Examinee:

	Males	Females	Total
Industry/Offices ... ..	1,140	869	2,009
General Public ... ..	445	776	1,221
General Practitioner Referrals ... ..	1	—	1
	<u>1,586</u>	<u>1,645</u>	<u>3,231</u>

### Abnormalities Discovered:

Tuberculosis requiring treatment ... ..	2	1	3
Tuberculosis requiring occasional supervision ... ..	—	1	1
Cardio-vascular lesions acquired ... ..	5	10	15
Cardio-vascular lesions congenital ... ..	—	1	1
Healed Tuberculosis ... ..	9	10	19
Pleural thickening ... ..	5	2	7
Abnormalities of diaphragm ... ..	1	3	4
Pneumonitis ... ..	1	1	2
Pulmonary fibrosis ... ..	1	—	1
Bronchiectasis ... ..	2	1	3



## Housing

## (a) Statistics

Number of New Houses Erected during the year:								<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(i)	By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	20
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	..	..	..	..	..	..	284	9
1. Inspections of dwelling-houses during this year:—								<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(1)	(a)	Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	..	..	356	—
	(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	..	..				435	—
	(c)	No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit	..	..				252	—
(2)		Total No. of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	..					15	—
2. Houses Demolished:—								<i>Houses Demolished</i>	<i>Displaced during year</i>
In Clearance Areas:									<i>Persons</i>
(1)		Houses unfit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(2)		Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	..	..				—	—
(3)		Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957						—	—
Not in Clearance Areas:									<i>Families</i>
(4)		As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957	..	..	..	..	..	41	23
(5)		Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(6)		Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(7)		Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
3. Unfit Houses Closed:—								<i>Houses</i>	<i>Displaced during year</i>
(1)		Under Sections 16 (4) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	..	..				3	2
(2)		Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	..	..				—	—
(3)		Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	..					—	—
4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:—								<i>By Owner</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>
(1)		After informal action by Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	242	—
(2)		After formal notice under:							
	(a)	Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
	(b)	Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(3)		Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—								<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)</i>
Position at end of year:								(1)	
(1)		Retained for temporary accommodation:—							
	(a)	Under Section 48	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
	(b)	Under Section 17 (2)	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
	(c)	Under Section 46	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(2)		Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	..	..	..			—	—
6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement:—								<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)</i>
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year								(1)	
			..	..	..	..		—	—



## Housing Statistics—continued

	Private bodies or individuals		Local Authority	
	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected
7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—Improvement Grants, etc.:—				
Action during year:—				
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	—	—	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(d) Finally approved by Ministry .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(e) Work completed .. .. .	—	—	—	—
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	—	—	—	—
8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—Standard Grants:—				No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
Action during year:				
(a) Applications submitted to local authority .. .. .				43
(b) Applications approved by local authority .. .. .				43
(c) Work completed .. .. .				31
(d) Remarks:				

## Food &amp; Drugs Act, 1955

The County Council is the Food & Drugs Authority in this area. Samples were taken by an Assistant County Sanitary Officer.

A total of 147 samples were obtained, consisting of 104 milks (1 of which was Channel Island milk) and 43 others comprising:—

1 Actal tablets	2 blancmange powder
1 castor oil	2 plain flour
1 Carbitral Capsules	1 baking powder
2 Butazolidin tablets	1 tincture of iodine B.P.
1 cooking fat	1 dandelion and burdock
2 coffee	1 margarine
1 malt vinegar	1 pickles
1 salmon spread (jar)	3 marmalade
1 pancake mixture	2 milk, dried full cream
1 lemon curd	1 vegetables, dried
1 calcium drink with Vit. C.	1 fruit, dried
1 powdered gelatine	1 mixed spice
1 cod liver oil B.P.	2 dripping
1 potatoes	1 Christmas pudding
1 ice cream	1 suet shredded
1 dairy ice cream	1 boric acid powder B.P.
1 butter	1 Epsom salts B.P.

I give below details of those samples which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 Informal milk ... ..	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.5 % extraneous water	Dairy cautioned
1 Formal milk ... ..	Freezing point indicated the presence of 4.0 % extraneous water	Producer cautioned
1 Milk dried, full cream	Fat content only 25.8 % should be not less than 26.0 %	Supplier communicated with



### **Milk & Milk Production**

All samples have remained free from tuberculosis. 70 samples have been examined.

Samples obtained for examination for *Brucella Abortus* numbered 343, 40 of which have been found to contain the organism. My concern, over the large amount of raw milk on sale in the District and the consequent large sector of the population at risk from the consumption of infected milk, has continued throughout the year. Sampling at a high level, with the willing co-operation of the farmers in detecting infected animals, has been achieved. However, the detection and segregation of infected animals is not an effective eradication scheme and until such a scheme is designed and operated we cannot expect to be free from the the scourge of Brucellosis.

It was necessary to serve heat treatment notices on one herd on two occasions during the year when full co-operation was not achieved. The infected animals were removed from the herd.

Antibiotics have been isolated from one sample submitted for examination. The producer/retailer was advised of the result and warned that a further offence would result in a recommendation to Council for legal action.

### **Milk in Schools Scheme**

All schools in the area receive heat treated milk. Bottles of milk are distributed daily throughout term periods to all schools in the district.

### **Tuberculosis Order 1938**

No action has been necessary under the Order. On occasions the Inspector at the abattoir concerned with meat inspection detects lesions which may be tubercular. When this occurs, samples are procured for laboratory examination and details of the origin of the animals are furnished to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry. The action taken by the Ministry is not known due to a complete lack of 'feed back' information. This is rather disturbing and not conducive to the Inspector's co-operation.

### **Ice Cream**

The two producers in the district continued to make a satisfactory product and samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. On each occasion they were found to be satisfactory. The majority of retailers in the district continued to sell the well known products of ice cream and ice lollies, and spot checks during the year proved satisfactory. The total number of samples of ice-cream taken was 11.

### **Food Hygiene**

The detailed attention to food hygiene at premises where food is sold, prepared, or is displayed for sale, is reflected in the absence of any disease associated with food poisoning.

Under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations in 1960 three important sections deal with the provision of wash-hand basins and facilities for washing food and equipment.

The number of premises where wash-hand basins have been installed in accordance with Section 16 of the Regulations is 15 and facilities for washing food and equipment number over 100.

It is estimated that there are about 110 premises to which Section 19 of the Regulations applies.

### **Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963**

No action has been necessary under the Regulations.



### **Housing the Aged**

The Lancashire County Council Health Committee are responsible for the welfare of the aged and this Authority with the aid of the County's grant aid scheme provide special housing accommodation to which is attached a Warden who attends to the needs of residents of the bungalows and helps with such problems as washing and minor ailments and is responsible for organising part of the social life of the residents in the form of television and communal room facilities.

The Council's bungalow scheme introduced in 1960 continues to be run satisfactorily with the Council's Warden, Mrs. Salmon, in charge. All of the 24 bungalows under her care are occupied. Mrs. Salmon was appointed to this position in November 1965, after the previous Warden, Mrs. Gill, had rendered such valuable service over the previous two years.

### **Schools**

At the end of the year there were 14 schools in the district, these were:—

All Saints Primary  
 Bamber Bridge Methodist Primary  
 Lostock Hall County Primary  
 Manybrooks Primary  
 Severn Drive Primary  
 St. Aiden's Primary  
 St. Gerrard's Primary  
 St. Leonard's Primary  
 St. Mary's Primary (Duddle Lane)  
 St. Mary's Primary (Browndedge Lane)  
 Browndedge St. Mary's Secondary Modern  
 St. Patrick's Primary  
 St. Saviour's Primary  
 Walton-le-Dale County Secondary Modern  
 Todd Lane North County Secondary Modern, in course of erection.

The erection of new schools has the inevitable recall of showing up to disadvantage schools of an older type. At least one of these in the district is now in such a condition that closure or extensive improvements should be seriously considered.

### **Atmospheric Pollution**

I have again to report that pollution of the atmosphere by domestic property has not been contained.

Over 300 new dwellings were built during the year and no control over flue emission was exercised. Since the introduction of the 1956 Act: 2,595 new dwellings have been built without any attempt being made to control the problem. This is equal to 34% of houses in the area.

Co-operation with industry has been satisfactory and no serious problems have developed. Emission of grit and smoke from two cupolas causing offence during 1964 has not been fully resolved although improvements have been made, and the investigation is continuing.

The Memorandum on Chimney Heights is proving of assistance in negotiating industrial chimney heights. However, as certain premises in particular schools are excluded from the Clean Air Act controls, insuperable difficulties have been met with in trying to persuade the Local Education Authority to construct chimneys of a standard not less than those provided by the Memorandum. A new school was under construction during the year, where the top of the chimney is not more than 4 ft. higher than the roof of the adjacent school building.

This is the second sub-standard chimney constructed at a new school in this district since the Memorandum was published.



### Water Supply

The water supply to the district, provided by the Preston and District Water Board, has remained satisfactory as regards quantity and quality throughout the year.

Copies of typical chemical results are given below, expressed in parts per million.

Mark or denomination of Sample	Longridge	Thirlmere
Total Solids in Solution	68	44
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 15 mins.	0.68	0.28
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 3 hours	1.16	0.56
Ammonia	0.09	0.035
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.03	0.005
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.37	0.31
Nitrogen as Nitrites	Faint Trace	Faint Trace
Combined Chlorine	9	8
Free Chlorine	0.03	0.04
Lead     )		
Copper   )	Nil	Nil
Zinc     )		
Total Iron	0.13	0.16
Fluorine	0.044	0.035
Apparent Colour	12 Hazen Units	1 Hazen Unit
pH. Value	7.2	7.5

The results of the chemical analyses indicate that these are typical upland surface waters. The somewhat high figures for free ammonia and the presence of faint traces of nitrites are probably due to chloramine treatment of the waters or to reduction of nitrates rather than to animal pollution, but special attention should be given to the bacteriological findings in assessing the suitability of the water for drinking purposes.

Both samples are free from lead, copper and zinc, and the amounts of iron present are less than the recommended international limit of 0.3 parts per million.

The amounts of fluorine present are typical of the amounts found in natural upland surface waters.

### Home Safety Committee

In September 1964, under the auspices of the Council, a Home Safety Committee was formed, representing various organisations such as, Women's Institute, Townswomen's Guild and various statutory bodies. The inaugural meeting was held on the 12th September, 1964. The Rev. A. Williams was elected as Chairman and Mrs. A. M. Thew as Vice-Chairman.

Meetings are held each two months and the members are very keen to develop the home safety view within the district. They are greatly aided by the Lancashire County Council Health Department who supply all the literature and materials propogating this important action and prevention project. This Committee provides information which stimulates action in regard to this important matter.

### Public Baths

There are no Public Baths in the District, but as Preston and Chorley are easily accessible, residents who wish to use Public Baths are able to do so. Part of the River Ribble at a place known as Church Deeps in Walton-le-Dale has been found in the past to be suitable for bathing at certain times of the year, but due to pollution of the River water this is not considered advisable.



### Factories

Following is a facsimile of the Report sent to the Ministry of Labour for 1965.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1965 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF WALTON-LE-DALE IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1937

#### PART 1 OF THE ACT

#### 1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (made by Public Health Inspectors)

<i>PREMISES</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Number of Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	20	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	83	33	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	7	—	—	—
	110	38	3	—

#### 2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned, as two, three or more "cases").

<i>Particulars</i> (1)	<i>Found</i> (2)	<i>Remedied</i> (3)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i> (6)
			<i>REFERRED To H.M. Inspector</i> (4)	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i> (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. .. .	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Accessories ..	3	3	—	—	—
	4	4	—	1	—

#### NEW LEGISLATION

Highways (Amendment) Act, 1965.

Shops (Early Closing Days) Act, 1965.

Public Health (Notification of Births) Act, 1965.

Compulsory Purchase Act, 1965.

Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act, 1965.

Housing (Slum Clearance Compensation) Act, 1965.

Rent Act, 1965.

New Towns Act, 1965.

In addition to the above the following Statutory Instruments were brought into force on matters which are of interest to a Public Health Department.

Milk (Special Designation) Specified Dairies Order.

Smoke Control Areas Authorised Fuels Order.

Shops & Railway Premises Exemption No. 3 Order.

Housing (Prescribed Forms) Amendment Regulations 1965.

Rag, Flock & Other Filling Materials Regulations 1965.



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1965

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure once again to present to you my Annual Report for 1965.

The work of the department in the environmental field has continued with unabated vigour and each year brings more problems and more work due to the development of the district. Details of the work done, together with statistics, are to be found in the body of the report which follows.

Some of the figures given, especially those in connection with the refuse collection and disposal service, have been compiled up to the 31st March, 1966, so in effect the environmental section covers the whole of 1965 whereas the refuse collection section refers to April 1965 to March, 1966.

One of our most exacting duties concerns the control of milk supplied to the district likely to be affected with Brucellosis, and many hours have been spent in trying to ensure that the animals from whom the milk was obtained were free from this disease. Individual samples have been taken from most of these animals and where found positive, the milk has been heat treated to prevent the infection being passed to the public.

Food hygiene generally has been given special attention particularly at the small retail shop where it is so necessary to maintain a high standard of personal hygiene along with the protection of open foods which are on sale.

Atmospheric pollution has also claimed our attention particularly at industrial premises where it can now be readily claimed that with one exception they are all conforming to the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1966. It is unfortunate that the same cannot be said for the control of domestic smoke which is the major pollutant of the district. Until smoke is controlled from this source, atmospheric pollution registered on the Council's recording instruments will still remain high.

Meat and food inspection has continued with the same vigilance as in former years and in 1966 when the new abattoir is completed an increase of the work will be quite substantial which will place more responsibility on the department in ensuring that all meat leaving the district is fit for human consumption.

Noise abatement has played an increasing part in our activities during the year and many late night visits have been made to premises and areas where noise has been complained of.

The annual infestation of the district from the black caterpillar (*Y. Padella*) occurred in June and took a similar pattern to that of previous years. The hawthorn hedges were infested and defoliated and where the infestation occurred near to dwellings the vermin invaded the kitchens and the larders of private domains. It is estimated that over 500 people came to the Council Offices to purchase insecticide and over 50 lbs. was sold in one ounce phials.

The standard of existing houses remains high and comparatively few houses can be said to be unfit in any respect for habitation. It was thought that Club Street area, Bamber Bridge, would have to be demolished, but after surveying the area it was found that the individual owners had improved their houses sufficiently well for the Council to give them another 15 years of life.

The legislation enacted to control working conditions in the offices, shops and railway premises is so detailed in its nature and takes into account so many facets of the working life of a shop or office assistant that it takes many hours to effectively deal with one premise, and as there are approximately 150 such premises in the district it is going to be two or three years before we deal with all the premises and submit reports to the Ministry of Labour and the Council. One feature of this legislation is the responsibility of a shop or office owner to notify the local authority whenever any accident occurs to their employees which necessitates them being absent from work for three days or more. Four such accidents have been reported and it has been necessary to do a detailed inspection and report in each case. Much propaganda work will have to be done if we are to reduce the accidents in these premises.

Welfare provisions for the residents, particularly the aged, is becoming an increasing part of our everyday work. Many calls for assistance are received for either home helps, meals on wheels,



or medical comforts in the case of sickness, and the department is really hard pressed at times to keep up with all the requests which are made. However, we feel that it is a necessity which should continue and develop, particularly as the expectation of life has increased and the number of old people which require help is on the increase. Good liason between voluntary and statutory departments is necessary if a service is to be maintained on the welfare side; this has been forthcoming with every case we have had to deal with.

Whilst all this administration has been carried out during the year for which I am responsible, it is nevertheless by teamwork that most of the cases are dealt with satisfactorily, and in this respect I am indeed indebted and very grateful to the valuable assistance which I receive from my Deputy Mr. J. R. Williams, from my Secretary Miss N. Dawson and from the other members of the staff which include the Meat Inspector, the Student and the Foreman of the Cleansing Department.

To the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Mr. Councillor W. Morgan, I am indeed grateful for his help, and to the other officials of the Council and to the Councillors themselves for the help which I have received during the past year.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. N. CORBISHLEY.



**1. Visits and Inspections Made**

Water Supply ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drainage, General	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	377
„ Testing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
„ C.C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
„ Survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
„ Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Rodent Control—Private	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
„ „ Business	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Atmospheric Pollution—General	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
„ „ Survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Schools ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Re-inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Noise Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Caterpillars	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90

**2. Housing**

P.H.A. Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
H.A. Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
Verminous, etc. houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Old Age People and Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Re-inspections—P.H.A. and H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

**3. Infectious Diseases**

General Inquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Miscellaneous Inquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shigella Sonnei (Dysentery)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65

**4. Meat and Food Inspections**

Food Preparation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	534
Brucella Abortus (Undulant fever in man)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144

**5. Sampling**

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food and Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sewer Swab Investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120

**6.** A total of 2,504 premises were visited and 2,709 visits made.



### Notices Served

Notices:

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	309
Formal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Informal complied with			...	...	...	...	...	...	301
Formal complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

### Housing

The standard of housing in the district remains high. Unfit houses have been either Closed or Demolished and there only remains a few sub-standard houses which will be dealt with by either repair or demolition during the course of next year..

The 63 houses in Club Street, Bamber Bridge, which were inspected during the early part of the year with a view to either Compulsory Purchase or Demolition were found to have been so improved by the individual owners that the "death knell" was lifted from this area and a further 15 years of life was given by the Council.

House building has proceeded apace. 313 houses were built and occupied, which is 56 fewer than in 1964. It can be said that there is virtually no housing problem. No known overcrowding exists, no serious sanitary defects exist at dwelling houses and due to the increase of owner/occupation individual houses are being brought up to a better standard than hitherto. It is estimated that less than 10% of the houses in the district are rented other than Council houses and these are gradually disappearing. As a rented house becomes vacant it is sold by the owner.

### Rent Acts

For the third successive year no action has been necessary under these Acts.

### Improvement Grants

The work of investigating applications for improvement grants is carried out by the Surveyor's Department, but it is interesting to note that there is an increase in the number of houses being improved both with or without the grant offered by the Council. Advice and help is given by members of the Health Department where appropriate.

The number of houses without baths is being reduced and with a steady rate of improvement I would estimate that within the next ten years there should be no houses in the district without baths or hot water.

### Movable Dwellings

The individual caravan sited on land without a licence may be in use as a dwelling in ignorance of the requirements of the Act. No problem has been found in dealing with them. This is not so with the roving type of vagrants of dubious occupation who appear from places unknown, squat, on any unoccupied site, irrespective of ownership or owners permission, deface, desecrate and upon forceable eviction, leave in a foul and insanitary condition. These people are a real problem, for which an adequate answer has not been found. The Police have been helpful in assisting with the prompt removal of such squatters on three occasions during the year. In each case it was necessary for the house refuse collection service to be called in to clean up the site upon vacation.



## Drainage

All new buildings have had their drainage system smoke tested upon completion. All drainage alterations to existing buildings have been inspected and tested when practicable.

Pollution of watercourses via old culverts has continued as a problem. Investigations are made upon complaint and a systematic study is being made. Pollution of watercourses adjacent to housing development with consequent obstruction to their free flow is causing concern to the Council and to residents. Attempts to ensure that such watercourses are piped during the development of sites are not being successful and despite problems for many years new sites are being developed without adequate safeguards.

## Rodent Control

### Prevention of Drainage by Pests Act, 1949

1. No. of rodent operatives employed— (a) Full time ... Nil  
(b) Part time ... 1
2. Action relating to rodent control during year—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY		
	Non-agricultural Dwelling-houses	All other	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in district .. .. .	6,351	996	90
(b) No. of properties inspected .. .. .	152	35	2
(c) Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections) ..		Not Available	
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:			
Rats—major .. .. .	—	4	—
minor .. .. .	133	19	2
Mice—major .. .. .	—	—	—
minor .. .. .	19	10	—
(e) No. of infested properties treated .. .. .	152	35	2
(f) Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments) ..	—	—	—
(g) No. of "Block" control schemes carried out .. .. .	—	—	—
(h) Any other action .. .. .	Sewerage System treated		

The number of complaints from business and dwelling houses in the district during the year showed an increase over previous years. This I am of the opinion is primarily due to the increase in rodents in the sewerage system.

In previous years a 10% test baiting of the sewers has been carried out which always showed a minority infestation in the system. The build up of these rodents in the sewers is primarily due to access being gained from the storm water overflows which adjoin water-courses. In June, however, the Council decided to call in a specialist firm to deal with treatment of sewers and at a cost of £200 the whole of the system was treated. Only time will show during the coming months how effective this treatment has been. This should be reflected in the reduced number of complaints from owners and occupiers of premises within the district.

152 dwelling houses and 37 business premises have been treated for rodents successfully. The Council's Rodent Operator, who is employed part time, has spent over 1,000 hours on this work.

The above table shows details of work carried out during 1965.



### Atmospheric Pollution

No progress has been made towards the establishment of smoke control areas. Industrial premises have continued to be satisfactory and the occasional emission of dark smoke has invariably been traced to unavoidable circumstances beyond immediate control. Co-operation with industry has been maintained.

Avoidable emissions from road vehicles have given no cause for complaints. Observations continued through the year.

Pollution from British Railways, Lostock Hall Service Department, has been contained at the level reported last year. Gradual progress towards the abolition of steam locomotives is reducing the number of locomotives using the Depot and I am informed that at the present rate of progress total abolition will have occurred within three to five years.

During the year 65 observations have been taken of premises.

The long standing anomaly whereby certain buildings are exempted from chimney height control has continued. Full advantage of this has been taken by the Education Authority who have constructed another chimney below the standard set for controlled buildings.

### MEAT AND FOOD

#### Slaughterhouses

The two licensed slaughterhouses continued to operate on similar lines to previous years, details of the amount of meat inspected are found below.

#### Carcases and Offal inspected and rejected in whole or in part

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known) .. .. .	1,334	5,902	1	1,960	—
Number inspected .. .. .	1,334	5,902	1	1,960	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned .. .. .	—	13	—	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	332	3,812	1	98	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci .. .. .	24.89	64.59	100	5	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcases condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	—	3	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. .. .	—	0.05	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	3	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—



During the past 12 months there has been a change of ownership at the large private slaughterhouse in the district; the new owners trade under the name British Beef Co., a large international concern.

The building of the new slaughterhouse is in its final stages and a further deferment has been granted until the 1st July, 1966. This slaughterhouse is reputed to be capable of a throughput of one hundred cattle per day and/or 500 sheep and pigs. It seems likely that the meat inspection service will find difficulty in handling this throughput, although Sunday slaughtering will probably cease, the working day will obviously be lengthened.

The smaller slaughterhouse in the district has had to make several modifications to comply with the Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations. The number of animals slaughtered varies little, being for the proprietors own retail trade.

The risk of meat trade employees and meat inspection staff contracting certain diseases through handling diseased meat has always been an occupational hazard. Over the past twelve months it has occurred to the Pathologists that Brucellosis may well be passed on in this manner. Tests were carried out at the larger slaughterhouse and quite a high percentage of men including one member of the Public Health Department staff reacted to both a blood test and a reactor test.

It seems quite likely that Brucellosis will be given more publicity in the near future.

### Raw Milks

<i>Samples taken from Producers in the District</i>								<i>Samples taken from Producers outside the District</i>						
<i>Year</i>				<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>T.B. present</i>	<i>No. taken</i>				<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>T.B. present</i>
					<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>						<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>	
1955	..	..	..	44	42	95.5	0	41	21	51.2	0			
1956	..	..	..	40	31	77.0	0	42	30	71.5	0			
1957	..	..	..	37	28	75.0	0	33	23	70.0	3			
1958	..	..	..	21	16	76.0	0	53	42	79.0	1			
1959	..	..	..	21	18	85.7	0	28	15	53.6	0			
1960	..	..	..	21	16	76.0	0	30	22	73.3	0			
1961	..	..	..	15	11	73.3	0	37	29	80.0	0			
1962	..	..	..	13	9	69.2	0	20	16	80.0	0			
1963	..	..	..	22	20	90.9	0	41	27	65.9	0			
1964	..	..	..	4	3	75.0	0	41	40	97.7	0			
1965	..	..	..	24	23	95.7	0	35	25	71.4	0			

### Pasteurised Milks

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Taken</i>	<i>Number Efficiently Heat Treated</i>	<i>%</i>
1955 .. ..	12	12	100
1956 .. ..	38	35	92
1957 .. ..	28	28	100
1958 .. ..	29	29	100
1959 .. ..	33	32	94
1960 .. ..	30	30	100
1961 .. ..	36	35	97
1962 .. ..	22	21	95
1963 .. ..	33	32	97
1964 .. ..	16	16	100
1965 .. ..	30	30	100



### Brucellosis in Bovine/Undulant Fever in Man

Sampling of milk for the detection of *Brucella Abortus* has continued throughout the year. 343 samples have been taken. 286 of them during detailed investigations at six producer/retailer premises. Infected animals were found at five premises within the district and two premises retailing within the area but sited in adjacent Local Authorities. Details of the samples are set out below.

Herd Sample—					Total	Positive	Negative
Ring Test	...	...	...	...	286	62	224
Culture	...	...	...	...	62	33	29
Biological	...	...	...	...	62	24	38
Routine Sample—							
Ring Test	...	...	...	...	57	8	49
Culture	...	...	...	...	8	2	6
Biological	...	...	...	...	8	2	6

As may be observed from the table there has been a considerable number of infected animals supplying milk which was retailed to the public in an untreated condition. This milk was removed from raw sales when found and consigned for heat treatment. In most cases the infected animal was removed from the herd and either slaughtered or sold. I have no authority to control the disposal of infected animals, it is therefore possible for infected animals to be sold into clean herds without the new owner being aware of the dangers.

### Ice Cream

Samples of ice cream and ice lollies were taken during the summer months. Eleven samples were taken. All have satisfied the prescribed tests and placed in Grade 1. The two producer/retailers in the district were sampled. Their premises were inspected and found to comply with the statutory requirements.

### Food Hygiene

The standard of food preparation, sale and distribution of food in the district remains at a fairly high level. The standard of hygiene in the larger canteen establishments at the factories was maintained at the same level as the past and there has not been any necessity to visit these premises in connection with any suspected outbreak of food poisoning.

### Other Foods

2,747 lbs. of "other foods" (totalling 1,641 items) was rejected during the year. Certificates were issued for this food as unsaleable or unfit for human consumption, the food was then destroyed.

### Verminous Premises

As in the past all complaints from dwellings received of vermin infestation of any kind are dealt with free of charge by the Council. Infestation such as cockroaches, fleas, flies, etc., are commonplace and 22 premises have been treated during the year. The once common bed-bug now seems to have disappeared although we had one very bad case which required fumigation on two occasions before complete reduction could be achieved.

Another problem dealt with by the department is the disinfestation of houses occupied by aged persons living alone. This generally happens when an aged person either dies or leaves the house and other relatives call us in to deal with the rather untidy or sometimes dirty state which is left behind. In addition to disinfestation all the old furniture and other articles are removed to the refuse tip for burning.



### **Y. Padella (Ermine Moth) Caterpillar**

For the seventh successive year the infestation by the Y. Padella ermine moth in caterpillar form infested the hawthorn hedges and allied plants practically in all the district. Some areas were more heavily infested than others, but in all cases the hawthorn hedge was completely defoliated and where these hedgerows and other plants pass near to premises the black caterpillar invaded the scullery or kitchens of the houses with most disconcerting effects. Urgent calls for treatment were received from residents so affected and the use of a very powerful insecticide soon dispelled the infestation.

During the course of the infestation the Council sold to the public approximately 50 lbs. of Dipterex 80 for use in their own spraying machines.

### **Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963**

This Act which came into operation in 1963 has caused additional work to be placed upon the department and although strictly not a public health matter it has been passed to the inspectors to deal with, being just another piece of legislation which no one else wants to be concerned with.

Of the three applications made in 1964 one was approved, one was withdrawn and the third had by the end of year carried out structural alterations to their premises bringing them up to conformity with the Regulations passed by the Council ensuring the hygienic standard for the housing of pet animals whilst their owners are away on holiday, etc.

### **Noise Abatement**

Five complaints of noise nuisance have been investigated. Forty-six visits and observations have been paid to investigate these complaints. Four of the nuisances complained of originated on industrial premises. One was from a domestic premise.

The industrial complaints were associated with:—

1. Elevating grain and animal feeding pellets within a sheet metal trunking.
2. Air displacement by an unbalanced pair of extraction fans used to dry animal feeding materials.
3. Air displacement by a cyclone extractor to a saw mill and the cutting of timber by a mechanical saw.
4. Hydro extraction from a paper making machine.

The domestic complaint concerned the playing of a gramophone at unnatural hours and high volume.

In no instance was it necessary to resort to legal action.

### **Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963**

The year under review was the first full year of operation of this important piece of legislation. At the commencement of the year 94 premises had registered under the Act with the local authority. 38 general inspections have been made at these premises and 52 other visits paid. Twenty-three notices have been served to rectify 52 defects. No legal action was taken during the year.

Analysis of Contraventions:

Section of Act	No of Premises with contraventions
6	12
8	3
12	1
16	5
17	5
18	1
19	1
24	7
48	1
50	16

Four accidents were reported on registered premises during the year. No legal action was taken, after investigation, but cautioning letters were sent in two cases.



### **Factories Act (Section 7)**

The Public Health Inspectors are responsible for carrying out inspection of factories for one part only, namely, the control of sanitary conveniences used by the workpeople. This applies in factories where power is used and apart from 20 premises all the 110 factories in the district have power in some form or another. 38 premises were visited and three notices served in connection with lack of or defective sanitary conditions.

It is generally felt by those who carry out the Factories Act under this section that this could so easily have been placed upon the Factory Inspectorate who already visit the factory for other conditions and it is time that a rule is made to try and pass over this responsibility to H.M. Factory control.

### **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

#### **House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal**

During the past twelve months a survey was carried out on the District to ascertain the actual number of dustbins being emptied. After the survey was complete it was found that a total of 9,500 bins have to be emptied. In addition large quantities of trade waste and salvage in the form of waste paper and general waste are removed from business premises on a weekly basis or in other cases on request. During the survey it was noticed that many houses had two dustbins which are apparently necessary in spite of a near weekly collection. The refuse is taking on a different character, it is becoming bulkier, polythene and plastic containers are on the increase and ashes and the products of combustion from solid fuel are very much decreased. This of course, presents a problem of disposal and unless controlled tipping is adhered to strictly there is a serious danger from fire.

We are fortunate in having no serious labour problem in the collection and disposal of refuse, although there have been a few changes amongst the workmen during the year. The sickness rate has been maintained at its usual level and it is anticipated that the employment of one man and sometimes two men are necessary to replace the men who are off sick for lengthy periods.

The service generally is becoming a little strained due to the increase in the number of houses being built and the bulkier refuse collected. It will necessitate consideration being given in the future to an alteration in the service either by its extension or the introduction of an incentive bonus scheme. At holiday times it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a good collection service and it is necessary to work many hours overtime in order to remove the back log of refuse built up during the holiday period.

The salvage collected is also on the increase and a record amount of paper, rags, metals, etc., have been collected during the financial year. This is reflected in the table at the end of this report.

Three karrier dual tip vehicles were repainted and reconditioned during the year. A new Ford 7 cu. yd. tipping vehicle was purchased to replace the ten-year-old karrier bantam. So with the 20 cu. yd. Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft tipper we now have a "five vehicle fleet" in excellent condition.

The Hennel Lane refuse tip is being filled at an ever increasing rate due to the increase in refuse collected. This is now estimated at 100 tons per week and it will be necessary to extend the life of the present tip either by leasing or purchasing another part of the existing valley in which tipping is now taking place. It is hoped that in 1966 negotiations will be complete for taking over a further section of this land and planning permission will have been received for tipping on this extension.

In January the Cleansing Foreman Mr. T. Dowbakin retired after 48 years service with the Council, the last five as foreman. Mr. I. Watson, the tractor-driver, was appointed to succeed Mr. Dowbakin and commenced as foreman on 20th January. My thanks are due to Mr. Watson for his assiduous work during the year to improve the service generally and the increase in salvage in particular. I am indeed indebted to him for his valuable help.



## Refuse Collection, Disposal and Salvage

### Service Costs:—

Gross Expenditure	....	....	...	...	...	...	£25,921
Gross Income	....	....	...	...	...	...	£3,829
Net Expenditure	....	....	...	...	...	...	£22,092
Dustbins emptied per week	....	....	....	....	....	....	9,500
Weekly Standard Wage: Driver			...	...	...	...	£12 16s. 0d.
Collector			...	...	...	...	£12 3s. 9d.

### Collections and Sales of Salvage, Compost and Tipping Charges

The following table shows the tonnage and materials sold and the amounts received for salvage:—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	£	s.	d.
Paper .. .. .	322	5	1	—	2,618	12	10
Textiles .. .. .	12	1	3	20	224	—	8
Non-Ferrous Metals .. .. .	3	2	—	23	339	14	6
Cast Iron .. .. .	6	3	—	—	61	16	—
Use of Tip .. .. .					460	13	—
Composting .. .. .					—	—	—
Miscellaneous .. .. .					124	3	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>£3,829</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	£	s.	d.
1955 .. .. .	280	16	3	16	2,693	11	9
1956 .. .. .	240	9	3	21	2,790	19	7
1957 .. .. .	292	14	1	5	2,999	1	4
1958 .. .. .	292	14	2	20	3,021	8	10
1959 .. .. .	291	15	3	23	3,218	0	0
1960 .. .. .	305	10	1	9	3,467	0	0
1961 .. .. .	309	4	3	20	3,543	0	0
1962 .. .. .	297	11	3	15	2,865	0	0
1963 .. .. .	315	19	—	20	3,109	0	0
1964 .. .. .	323	19	3	4	3,153	0	0
1965 .. .. .	342	12	1	15	3,829	0	0



## ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

This brief Report covers the period 1st January, 1965 to 31st December, 1965.

### 1. Highways

#### 1.1. Authorised expenditure on maintenance and minor improvements:—

*Authorised expenditure over the last 5 years*

<i>Road Class</i>	<i>Length</i>	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Class I .. ..	3.07 miles	£8,420 (£2,745/mile)	£3,814 (£1,242/ml.)	£3,810 (£1,240/mile)	£10,635 (£3,470/mile)	£5,720 (£1,867/mile)
Class II .. ..	2.22 miles	£9,930 (£4,380/mile)	£7,583 (£3,420/ml.)	£11,740 † (£5300/mile)	£2,225 (£1,000/mile)	£5,110 (£2,300/mile)
Class III .. ..	2.39 miles	£5,700 (£2,385/mile)	£5,933 (£2,480/ml.)	£4,450 (£1,860/mile)	£2,169 (£907/mile)	£5,244 (£2,200/mile)
Unclassified ..	24.52 miles‡	£24,580 (£942/mile)	£26,441 (£1080/ml.)	£18,945 (£805/mile)	£15,962 (£743/mile)	£18,295 (£927/mile)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>32.20 miles</b>	<b>£48,630</b>	<b>£43,771</b>	<b>£38,945</b>	<b>£30,991</b>	<b>£34,369</b>

† Scheme for widening of part of Church Brow, Walton-le-Dale, estimated cost £2,500 in addition to total shewn in table.

‡ Last year's unclassified roads total — 24.52 miles.

Public Footpaths (not included in the total — 27.3 miles.

#### 1.2. Manchester—Preston Motorway

The Ministry of Transport published the centre-line map. Objections were received—affecting the line north of Chorley to Bamber Bridge—and a public inquiry was held. No decision had been announced by the year-end.

The proposals for diversions and alterations of district highways and public footpaths were approved by the Council.

#### 1.3. Chorley Road A.6 (near Cinnamon Hill Drive South)

The Ministry of Transport abandoned a previously approved scheme to widen Chorley Road and provide pedestrian refuges, but approved the provision of a pedestrian crossing at this location.

#### 1.4. Church Road A.6/Kellet Lane junction

A scheme was prepared by the County Council and approved by the Ministry of Transport for improvement of the junction.

#### 1.5. Lostock Hall Bye-pass Road

The Council had further correspondence with the County Council concerning this proposed road, as the Council was not convinced that any advantages there might be would be worth the large expense.

The County Council maintained that the scheme was necessary and worthwhile.

Towards the end of the year, the County Council began investigating the possibilities of tunnelling the road beneath the railway and Browledge Road instead of constructing a long bridge.



### 1.6. **Hoghton Lane A.675**

A scheme was prepared and approved by the County Council and Ministry of Transport, for an improvement of the bend in Hoghton Lane near Lower Jannock Farm, and the provision of footpaths.

Unfortunately the necessary land was not acquired during the year, and therefore the scheme was not carried out.

### 1.7 **Cuerdale Lane B.6230**

A scheme was prepared and approved for the improvement and provision of a footpath on Cuerdale Lane from The Drive to "Maizefield," and work began on the road widening.

### 1.8. **Daub Hall Lane**

Daub Hall Lane was widened and a footpath constructed on the west side from Bells Lane to Hoghton Lane. The access between Hoghton Lane and the rapidly developing area of Gregson Lane was considerably improved by this scheme.

### 1.9. **Bank Head Lane**

Improvement and widening of Bank Head Lane was continued as further private housing development took place.

### 1.10. **Pear Tree Crescent**

The link road connecting Pear Tree Crescent and Coniston Drive was completed.

### 1.11. **Speed Limits**

The "30" limit was extended for a short distance in Hoghton Lane, but the Ministry of Transport continued to refuse the imposition of any speed limit on the remaining length of Hoghton Lane.

The Ministry proposed to derestrict that section of Church Road A.6 which includes the M.6/A.6 interchange, although there was considerable opposition by the Council.

## 2. **Private Street Works**

### 2.1. Schemes were prepared for making up 8 streets:—

- Bannister Hall Lane (part)
- Water Street
- Whalley Street
- Passage connecting Water Street and Whalley Street
- Bridge Street, Bamber Bridge (part)
- Nelson Street
- Smithy Street
- Berry Street (part).

### 2.2. Works were completed in 4 streets:—

- Bannister Hall Lane (part)
- Water Street
- Whalley Street
- Passage connecting Water Street and Whalley Street

2.3. Objections to the making up of Nelson Street, Smithy Street and Bridge Street were withdrawn before the cases were heard by the Court.



2.4. Builders completed roadworks in 12 streets under Agreement, and the streets were adopted as "highways maintainable at public expense":—

Alder Avenue	Pear Tree Crescent (part)
Alder Drive (part)	Pear Tree Close
Hillpark Avenue (part)	Berry Street (part)
Willow Close	Westfield (part)
Meadowside Drive	Barnfield (part)
Rosemead Avenue (part)	Wesley Street

### 3. Public Footpaths

The Council agreed that the necessary Orders should be made for the closure or diversion of footpaths affected by development:—

Withy Grove (building in progress)  
 Doodstone Nook (School playing fields under construction)  
 Bank Head Lane (alongside Alders estate) (building in progress)  
 Station Road to Coniston Drive (alternative path available)  
 Mill Street and passage (houses demolished).

### 4. Street Lighting

4.1. Private building continued apace and the Council's policy of lighting new estate roads as constructed also continued.

4.2. During the year 35 new lamps were provided, making a total of 1,394 street lamps in the Urban District:—

Sodium 140 watt	318
Sodium 80 watt	1
Fluorescent 2/20 watt	37
Tungsten 500 watt	7
Tungsten 150 watt	480
Tungsten 100 watt	550
Tungsten 60 watt	1

4.3. 10 lamps in Brindle Road (between School Lane and Collins Road) were converted from tungsten lamps to 2/20 fluorescent lamps.

### 5. Sewage Disposal

5.1. The new sewage treatment works was brought into full service, and an "Open Day" was held to enable members of the Public to visit the works. The public's response was very disappointing.

5.2. The Official Opening of the Works was deferred several times owing to the illness of Sir Thomas Hargreaves, J.P., C.A., Chairman of the Lancashire River Authority.

5.3. As his health continued to deteriorate, Sir Thomas Hargreaves withdrew his acceptance of the invitation to open the Works, and the Official Opening ceremony was performed by Councillor Joseph Spencer, Chairman of the Walton-le-Dale Sewerage Committee, on 3rd July, 1965.

5.4. Considerable difficulties were experienced in disposal of sludge and large quantities had to be stock-piled.

### 6. Trade Effluent

6.1. A little progress was made towards bringing all industries discharging trade effluents, under control.



6.2. The charges, based on the formula agreed by the Council, were considerably higher than the previous "nominal" charges, and may be higher still when actual costs of operating the sewage works are available.

## **7. Foul Sewers**

Schemes and Designs were prepared for:—

7.1. Lydrice Avenue, Gregson Lane, relief sewer—to overcome flooding of house gardens in Daub Hall Lane.

7.2. Alma Row relief sewer—to divert sewage flow from Rock Cottage Estate into the recently constructed sewer alongside the stream in Alma Row.

7.3. Todd Lane South—sewer to connect existing septic tanks to the sewer laid by the Hospital Board (from Watkin Lane to Lostock Hall Hospital).

## **8. Surface Water Drainage**

Investigations were made into methods of avoiding or alleviating occasional flooding in Bradkirk Lane and a scheme was prepared for a relief surface water sewer. This will have to be constructed when further land off Brindle Road (Greystock Close) is developed.

## **9. Flooding**

There was no serious flooding during the year.

The following known trouble spots received attention:—

9.1. Withy Grove Road—bend in old stone culvert located, large accumulation of debris removed and manhole constructed.

9.2. Bannister Hall Lane—further surface water drainage laid by Builder.

9.3. Fox Lane—preliminary investigations begun. New surface water sewers will be required to replace inadequate stone culverts when development of the Coupe Green area is approved.

9.4. Brindle Road—near Pimley Farm. Development of Withy Grove Estate is progressing and new surface water sewers are being provided by the Builders to replace the old inadequate stone culverts.

9.5. Old Persons Bungalows, Brindle Road—a collapsed section of the surface water sewer in Brindle Road was located and repaired.

## **10. Council Housing**

### **10.1. Cottage Lane Bungalows**

Construction of a block of 4 aged persons bungalows, on the access road to the County Council's Charnley Fold Hostel, was begun.

### **10.2. The Holme Flats**

The 20 one-bedroom flats at The Holme (Bridge Street) were completed. These flats were provided with sockets connected to a single all-channel T/V aerial.

### **10.3. External Painting**

The programme for external painting of Council houses was resumed.

### **10.4. Pre-War houses—electricity circuit**

All pre-war Council built houses were re-wired to modern standards providing 13 amp sockets and cooker and immersion heater circuits.



### **10.5. Collins Road pre-war houses—porches**

A contract was accepted, and work begun in replacing the dilapidated timber “porches” at the rear of the pre-war Council houses in Collins Road.

10.6. Lock-up garages (22) were erected on the Collins Road (near G.P.O.) site. Tenders were invited for the erection of 17 lock-up garages at Meanygate garage site.

## **11. Private Housing**

During the year 294 dwellings were completed by private builders, and at the year end in December, there were 294 under construction.

## **12. Housing Improvement Grants**

42 applications for Standard Improvement grants were approved.

## **13. Playing Fields**

### **13.1. Withy Grove site**

The owner of the site at Withy Grove, designated as future Public Open Space on the Town Map and Review Town Map, submitted an outline application for residential development on the whole of the site.

Planning consent was refused and the applicant lodged an Appeal.

The hearing had not been fixed at the year end.

The County Council proposed the erection of a Youth Centre for Bamber Bridge, and the Council suggested that it should be located on the Withy Grove site. Unfortunately no progress could be made with the owner, who is obviously awaiting the outcome of the Appeal.

### **13.2 Gregson Lane**

The Council agreed that the County Council should be allowed to erect a Library and Clinic on land at the entrance to Gregson Lane playing field, provided that the design of the buildings made provision for the Council's projected Community Centre on the site.

## **14. Plans and Planning**

14.1. During the year 645 applications relating to 1,420 permanent buildings and 227 temporary buildings were dealt with under the Building Byelaws.

14.2. Planning applications received numbered 194. Several of them related to extensive building sites and provided for approximately 1,000 houses.

## **15. Review Town Map**

15.1. The Review Town Map, for which the Public Inquiry was held in October 1962, has not yet been approved by the Minister.

15.2. The Review Map proposals are now appreciably out of date and development is proceeding on land not included in the Review. (The Council had foreseen that the Review proposals were unrealistic and based on incorrect forecasts of building progress and had asked for the inclusion of additional areas of land for which sewerage capacity was available).

15.3. The approval of the Review Town Map will be almost an academic exercise—particularly in view of the New Town proposals.

## **16 Chorley/Leyland New Town**

16.1. The Minister of Housing and Local Government appointed Consultants to advise on the Chorley/Leyland New Town proposals, giving them a wide brief in general terms.



16.2. As it seems obvious that there would have to be standstill on planning consents in the area Chorley/Leyland/Euxton, it was suggested to the County Council that "1981" development land within the Urban District and land provided for in the Main Sewerage Scheme, but not in the Review Town Map, should be "brought forward" so that house building in the area should continue. The County Council's reactions to this proposal are not known.

## 17. Staff

The only change in the staff of my Department during the year was at the Sewage Treatment Works, where the trainee Chemist/Manager left.

## 18. Transport

18.1. The mini-van used by the Works Superintendent was replaced with a larger van in April.

18.2. New 3-ton tipping wagons were delivered in August and September.

18.3. The usage of the Department's vehicles was:—

<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Petrol (gallons)</i>	<i>M.P.G.</i>
Thames 3-ton truck ..	Nov. 1954	5,340	593	9.0
Fordson 3-ton „ ..	Dec. 1956	5,760	599	9.6
Bedford Sweeper ..	June 1957	7,323	1,370	5.35
Karrier Gulley-emptyer ..	April 1958	2,742	1,661	3.47
Bedford truck ..	Mar. 1959	9,387	403	24.4
Austin Mini-van ..	Jan. 1961	2,967	108	27.5
Morris Van ..	Apr. 1965	10,107	396	27.9
Fordson 3-ton tipper ..	Aug. 1965	4,290	416	10.3
Fordson 3-ton tipper ..	Sept. 1965	3,525	361	9.88
Totals: .. ..	—	54,891	5,907	—

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Printed by  
Frank Coupe & Co., Ltd.,  
Walton-le-Dale,  
Preston.